

Act. This bill will assist in our fight against terrorism around the globe. Currently, the terrorist rewards program run by the State Department assists in our hunt for terrorists by promising a cash reward or other type of reward for information leading to the arrest of some of the world's most deadly terrorists. This program has been very successful in the past in apprehending key people including Mir Amal Kansi, a terrorist who had murdered two CIA employees and injured three others in a 1993 shooting outside CIA headquarters in Virginia.

Under current law, the U.S. may not pay a reward to an officer or employee of another government. I have traveled to Pakistan each of the last 4 years, where I met with a number of government officials. At the strong suggestion of Pakistan's ISI and IB intelligence and police bureaus, I believe the President should be able to pay such a reward to anyone having information leading us to the greatest terrorists. If there is anyone, anywhere, even if they work for a Pakistani government agency, who has information about the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden, we should be doing all we can to elicit that information.

With the increasing number of cross-border incursions into Afghanistan coming from the Waziristan region of Pakistan, it is more important than ever to develop a complete picture of where al Qaeda and Taliban terrorists are hiding. We need to provide our State Department and intelligence officials with all the possible tools to aid in the capture of the world's number one terrorist. The Terrorist Rewards Enhancement Act will provide one more of these tools.

INTRODUCTION OF THE VETERANS HEALTH EQUITY ACT OF 2009

HON. CAROL SHEA-PORTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Ms. SHEA-PORTER. Madam Speaker, today, I introduced The Veterans Health Equity Act of 2009. This legislation requires the Department of Veterans Affairs to ensure that every State has a full-service veterans hospital, or access to equivalent care in-state. I have been calling for the VA to provide full-service medical care to New Hampshire's veterans since October of 2007 and introduced identical legislation in the 110th Congress.

New Hampshire has not had a full-service veterans hospital since 2001 and is the only State without a full-service VA hospital or comparable facility. While New Hampshire may be a small State, it has a veteran population over 130,000.

Because we lack a veterans hospital, New Hampshire's veterans are often forced to travel out-of-state for medical care. Veterans traveling from the most Northern parts of the State may have to travel three hours to Manchester and then may be forced to travel up to 2 hours to Boston, if they are referred there for their care.

Unfortunately, this routinely happens—each year, hundreds of patients are referred to the Boston, MA or White River Junction, VT facilities.

It is simply a matter of fairness that our veterans in New Hampshire be afforded the

same services as veterans in every other State. Though New Hampshire may be a small State, even smaller States with fewer veterans have full-service care available.

I am a realist, and a fiscal conservative. That is why my legislation does not require the VA to construct a full-service hospital in Manchester if it is not economically feasible. Instead, the Department could work with health care providers in the state to provide care through local hospitals.

The Manchester VA facility has done a great job of reaching out to local partners and getting our vets access to as much local care as possible within their current restrictions. In fact, they have submitted a business plan that would allow them to contract with more local health care providers. I urge the Department to strongly consider this business plan. Its approval would make a big difference in the quality and accessibility of care for New Hampshire's veterans.

If the VA will not consider restoring Manchester to a full-service facility or ensuring that New Hampshire veterans have access to care in New Hampshire, Congress must do so.

Our veterans, regardless of the services they need, deserve the same care their counterparts receive in every other State. It is unconscionable that we deny them this full-service care and instead offer them ad hoc services.

I will continue to work with the Director of the New Hampshire VA and with the new Obama Administration to ensure that our veterans have care in New Hampshire. Last summer's expansion of radiation services proves that the VA can work to ensure that local care is available. It is time for the VA to go further and for the government to live up to the promises we've made to those who have served so honorably.

HONORING FORMER U.S. REPRESENTATIVE CHARLES T. CANADY UPON HIS INVESTITURE AS A JUSTICE TO THE FLORIDA SUPREME COURT

HON. ADAM H. PUTNAM

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. PUTNAM. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a former member of this body, Representative Charles T. Canady on the occasion of his investiture as a Justice to the Supreme Court of the State of Florida.

During his tenure in the U.S. House of Representatives, Justice Canady served this nation and the people of the 12th Congressional District, which I now represent, with honor and distinction. His steadfast commitment toward upholding the laws and principles on which our nation was founded, will serve the people of the State of Florida well through his appointment as a Justice to the Florida Supreme Court.

Born in Lakeland, Florida, Justice Canady earned his B.A. from Haverford College in 1976 and Doctorate of Jurisprudence from Yale University in 1979. Thereafter, he practiced law in Lakeland at the firm of Holland and Knight and with the Lane, Trohn, Clarke, Bertrand and Williams law firm. In 1984, he was elected to the Florida House of Representatives where he served through 1990.

In 1992, Justice Canady was elected to the 103rd Congress and served four terms in the United States House of Representatives from January 1993 to January 2001. Throughout his tenure in Congress, Justice Canady was an active member of the House Judiciary Committee. For three terms from January 1995 to January 2001, former Rep. Canady was the Chairman of the House Judiciary Subcommittee on the Constitution. In this capacity, his efforts toward protecting and defending the laws of our nation made a lasting mark not only on this body, but on the American people for whom we are called serve.

While a member of the House of Representatives, Former Rep. Canady worked with steadfast dedication and fortitude on the issues found at the core of our country's belief system. Among his contributions include passage into law of the Religious Liberty Protection Act, which protects all citizens' right to exercise their religious freedoms. He also championed the Civil Rights Act of 1997, the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act, the Private Property Rights Implementation Act, Equal Opportunity Act, as well as the Family Caregiver Enumeration Act.

Appointed as a House Manager to conduct the presidential impeachment proceedings, he worked to uphold the laws of our nation through his unwavering commitment to the principles of the Constitution of the United States and the governing rules of our country.

Justice Canady kept his term limits pledge, and did not seek reelection to a fifth term in 2000. After leaving Congress, Justice Canady returned to the practice of law, serving as counsel to Governor Jeb Bush. In 2002, Governor Bush appointed him to Florida's Second District Court of Appeal. On August 27, 2008, Governor Charlie Crist nominated Justice Canady to the Florida Supreme Court. His nomination was confirmed and Justice Canady took his seat as the 82nd Associate Justice to the Florida Supreme Court on September 8, 2008, and was sworn-in through a formal investiture on December 3, 2008.

Former Congressman Charles T. Canady resided until his appointment to the Florida Supreme Court in Lakeland, Florida, and is married to wife Jennifer and has two daughters, Julia and Anna. Charles T. Canady is the son of Charles and Delores Canady.

INTRODUCTION OF THE AMERICARE HEALTH INSURANCE ACT OF 2009

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 6, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to reintroduce the AmeriCare Health Care Act of 2009. I have often spoken before this body about the great need to reform our health care system. For too long, we have been plagued with an inadequate patchwork system that today leaves nearly 46 million Americans uninsured. We spend more per person than any other country in the world, yet our health outcomes lag well behind that of other industrialized nations.

The failing economy is even more proof of our need to act now. Our broken health system is a tremendous financial burden on our